

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 26, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 13, 2006

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1267**

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**Introduced by Senator Cedillo**

**(Coauthors: Senators Figueroa, Kuehl, Romero, and Vincent)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bermudez, Jerome Horton, and Pavley)

February 9, 2006

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An act to add Section 12087.5 to the Government Code, relating to naturalization services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1267, as amended, Cedillo. Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Existing law sets forth the duties of the Department of Community Services and Development respecting certain community programs in the state. Existing law appropriates \$1,500,000 to the department for purposes of the Naturalization Services Program.

This bill would establish within the department the Office of Immigrant Affairs in order to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state. The office would be overseen and managed by a director who would administer the Naturalization Services Program and develop a program plan to add components to that program. The director would also work with local organizations to ensure the success and availability of services provided through the Naturalization Services Program. *This bill would also authorize the office to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations that serve immigrants, and would authorize these organizations to be*

*reimbursed by the office if funds are available and the director approves the reimbursement, as provided.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares as  
2 follows:

3 (1) Immigrants are a vibrant force in California's changing  
4 demographics. More than one-quarter of California residents are  
5 foreign born. Of the 8.8 million foreign born, 39 percent are  
6 United States citizens and 3.3 million are legal permanent  
7 residents.

8 (2) Most noncitizens have family members who are citizens.  
9 Ninety percent of Latinos and 80 percent of Asians live in  
10 households with citizens.

11 (3) Approximately 40 percent of Californians speak a  
12 language other than English at home.

13 (4) Fifty-five percent of California's immigrants come from  
14 Latin America, while 33 percent come from Asia, 8 percent from  
15 Europe, 2 percent from North America, and the rest from Africa  
16 and Oceania.

17 (5) Immigrants fuel California's economy through their labor  
18 and entrepreneurship. Immigrants comprise one-third of  
19 California's labor force in key economic sectors: 40 percent in  
20 general services, 45 percent in manufacturing, and 33 percent  
21 work in a variety of sectors. Sixty-six percent of gardeners are  
22 immigrants. Sixty-six percent of cooks are immigrants. Sixty-six  
23 percent of domestic workers are immigrants. Ninety percent of  
24 farm workers are immigrants.

25 (6) Immigrants are among California's most productive  
26 entrepreneurs and have created jobs for tens of thousands of  
27 Californians. In San Jose alone, immigrant owners of technology  
28 companies created more than 58,000 jobs and generated more  
29 than \$17 billion in sales during the 1990s.

30 (7) Immigrants will represent a significant proportion of  
31 California's voters in years to come. In California, there are  
32 currently 2.7 million immigrants eligible to naturalize and several  
33 million more that will soon become eligible to naturalize. This

1 will increase the number of voters who are naturalized citizens in  
2 the years to come.

3 (8) California has at least 85 cities where noncitizen adults  
4 comprise more than 25 percent of the city's total voting-age  
5 population. There are 30 municipalities where noncitizen adults  
6 make up more than 40 percent of the voting-age population.

7 (9) Immigrants often require the most assistance immediately  
8 upon arrival to the United States. However, as immigrants reside  
9 in the state for a longer period of time, they are less likely to use  
10 services and more likely to contribute to the state's culture and  
11 economy.

12 (10) It is in the best interest of the state and its residents to  
13 establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs for state government to  
14 advocate and promote cooperation and understanding between  
15 government agencies and immigrant residents, and to assist  
16 immigrants toward naturalization.

17 (11) Citizenship and civic participation among all California  
18 residents is vital to the economic and societal well-being of the  
19 state.

20 (12) It is in the state's best interests to help its immigrant  
21 population integrate in society, develop a sense of belonging, and  
22 seize opportunities for success in order to ensure equal  
23 opportunity for a high quality of life of every resident.

24 (13) California's primary goal should be to support the ability  
25 of all residents, including immigrants to be economically  
26 self-sufficient, participate in our nation's and state political  
27 process, and foster a sense of responsibility to our community.

28 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Office of  
29 Immigrant Affairs ensure state government agencies and  
30 California communities are aware of the needs of immigrants and  
31 that immigrants receive appropriate assistance to quickly achieve  
32 and maintain self-reliance and full integration into our society.

33 SEC. 2. Section 12087.5 is added to the Government Code, to  
34 read:

35 12087.5. (a) There is hereby established the Office of  
36 Immigrant Affairs within the Department of Community Service  
37 and Development. In order to ensure the integration and civic  
38 participation of new citizens in the state, the office shall do all of  
39 the following:

1 (1) In coordination with city and county government agencies,  
2 ~~help~~ *ensure that* new citizens and eligible immigrants obtain  
3 information about the naturalization process and help them  
4 access translated information on resources available in the state.  
5 The office shall ~~also provide a resource list and provide referrals~~  
6 ~~on adult~~ *also post a resource list and a list of referrals on adult*  
7 education, English literacy, civic education, ~~and~~ citizenship  
8 services, consumer protection, housing, and domestic violence  
9 services in California.

10 (2) Make known the needs of immigrant communities by  
11 setting objectives and deliverables, and partnering with state  
12 government agencies *to expand and assist outreach efforts to*  
13 *ethnic communities. The office may work with agencies,*  
14 including, but not limited to, the State Board of Education, the  
15 Refugee Program Bureau within the State Department of Social  
16 Services, and the Office of Immigrant Assistance within the  
17 Department of Justice, to coordinate *and streamline* efforts and  
18 existing services provided to California's immigrant  
19 communities by various state agencies.

20 (3) Work with state agencies and departments to identify  
21 existing, and advocate for, culturally and linguistically competent  
22 resources and programs that can be used by immigrant residents  
23 to assist their integration, including, but not limited to, education,  
24 adult education, language skills, civics, job training, health, and  
25 naturalization services.

26 (4) Conduct data-driven policy analysis on issues impacting  
27 immigrant communities and make policy recommendations to the  
28 Legislature and the Governor on state level and federal level  
29 policy impacting California's immigrants.:-

30 (5) Develop strategies and program proposals and identify  
31 services that support the ability of new citizens to be  
32 economically self-sufficient, participate in governance, and foster  
33 a sense of belonging and responsibility to the community.

34 (6) Disseminate information and provide referrals to existing  
35 ESL classes in order to help new citizens learn English, be  
36 informed of our laws and support public safety, know their  
37 rights, be responsible family members, engage in civic affairs,  
38 and maximize their contributions to ensure a high quality of life  
39 in our community.

1 (7) Work with educational institutions, community-based  
2 organizations, nonprofits, and private programs to collect and  
3 disseminate multilingual civics curriculum for people  
4 participating in the Naturalization Services Program.

5 (b) The office may accept donations from private  
6 organizations to assist in the implementation of this section.

7 (c) The office shall partner and coordinate with other state  
8 agencies to ensure proper outreach and response to the immigrant  
9 community about state government's programs and resources.  
10 The office shall partner and coordinate with other state agencies  
11 and community-based organizations to coordinate, assist, and  
12 cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to  
13 serve the needs of immigrants, especially in the area of culture,  
14 education, employment, health, housing, welfare, and recreation.

15 (d) The office shall be overseen and managed by a director to  
16 be appointed by the department.

17 (e) The director of the office shall do all of the following:

18 (1) Administer the Naturalization Services Program and  
19 develop a program plan to add components to that program to  
20 allow it to cater to the needs of California's immigrant  
21 population more efficiently and effectively in the areas of  
22 naturalization and civic participation.

23 (2) Work with local organizations to ensure the success and  
24 availability of services provided through the Naturalization  
25 Services Program.

26 (3) Oversee all functions of the Office of Immigrant Affairs.

27 (f) *(1) The Office of Immigrant Affairs may seek input from*  
28 *nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to serve*  
29 *immigrants and their families. The office may enter into*  
30 *partnerships, cooperative agreements, or contracts with*  
31 *nonprofit organizations to serve as a liaison between the office*  
32 *and the immigrant communities in California. All partnerships,*  
33 *cooperative agreements, or contracts shall be approved by the*  
34 *director of the office. Nonprofit organizations may seek*  
35 *reimbursement from the office, but that reimbursement is*  
36 *contingent upon approval by the director and the availability of*  
37 *funding from the office's existing budget.*

38 *(2) A liaison described in paragraph (1) shall do the*  
39 *following:*

1     (A) Conduct stakeholder meetings in designated regions in  
2     California to identify the needs of immigrants in California and  
3     report its findings to the office for the purpose of increasing  
4     awareness about immigrant communities and making policy  
5     recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor.

6     (B) Along with the Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs,  
7     gather information about the needs of California's immigrant  
8     population, determine key state governmental resources used by  
9     immigrant communities, identify key policy areas and areas of  
10    concern, and report findings with recommendations to the  
11    Legislature and the Governor as to how the state can respond to  
12    the issues impacting California's immigrant population.

13    (C) Help the office create a strategy to promote public  
14    awareness of the contributions of immigrants and how  
15    immigration can support community goals.

16    (D) Identify ways to define and measure immigrant integration  
17    and self-reliance and report progress in these areas to the  
18    Legislature and the Governor. The nonprofit organization shall  
19    work to identify ways to improve the naturalization process and  
20    immigration services.

21    (g) The office may seek input from other nonprofit  
22    organizations, state agencies, cities, counties, or other  
23    designated entities to carry out the functions of the office.